

Chairman, and Members of the Committee, thank you for your consideration today.

My name is Marlyn Atkins. I've lived in the Montana City area for almost 30 years. In the early 1990's, I worked on the North Jefferson County Vicinity Plan and subsequently, on zoning. I now am a member of the Jefferson County Zoning Commission. All of this work has been as a concerned citizen. My time, energy, and efforts have been donated. For today's hearing and my Zoning Commission meetings, I have to take time off work, and I am required to use my vacation leave. I think that speaks to how seriously committed I am to local issues. When serving on these committees you learn to consider opposing sides, you learn to compromise, and most importantly, you feel proud of the finished product because it is you and your fellow citizens that have come together and followed through to consensus.

I offered my assistance because I care deeply about the place where I live. I chose Jefferson County, not the City of Helena, not Lewis & Clark County, and you can bet that I want to see the flavor, the lower density, and the dwindling rural nature preserved. Annexation will cause a huge, negative impact. We will go from various acre minimums, to city lot size. County services and schools would be stretched to the breaking point.

Numerous times we are told to get involved with neighborhood, county and political issues. As a citizen of Jefferson County, I have taken that directive seriously. But it is very disheartening to see your hard work discounted with the stroke of a pen. Who in their right mind will do their part in working for their community, if their efforts are erased without consideration? If the City of Helena is allowed to annex, the zoning in North Jefferson County will disappear. All the years of all my efforts will be wiped away. I'm not a lobbyist or a paid City employee, I am one who cares enough to stand up and fight for my neighborhood and for my County. This is my home, and I care enough to say NO to annexation-It's wrong. Please support Senator Murphy's bill, SB 339. Thank You.



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